



Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Investigative Report



2020-3388

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1062 Oberlin Drive, Columbus, Ohio

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Officer Aaron Ward (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 01/06/2021  
**Activity Location:** 5th Precinct Sub-Station – 1371 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, Ohio, OH, Franklin County  
**Author:** SA Perry K. Roeser, #114

**Narrative:**

On December 22, 2020, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was asked to investigate an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI), which involved the Columbus Police Division (CPD). BCI was notified CPD responded to a suspicious person/vehicle complaint in the neighborhood of 1062 Oberlin Dr., Columbus, Ohio. When officer(s) arrived on the scene they encountered Andre Hill, who at the time was walking out of the garage of the listed address. During the contact, CPD Officer Adam Coy discharged his firearm at Mr. Hill, who later died from the gunshot injuries.

On January 6, 2021, and as part of the on-going investigation into the OICI, Special Agent (SA) Perry Roeser and Special Agent (SA) Richard Ward arranged for a witness interview with Columbus Police Sergeant (Sgt.) Aaron Ward and Fraternal Order of Police Attorney, Nicole Wannemacher, at 1371 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, Ohio. The interview started at approximately 2109 hours and was conducted in an office within the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Substation.

Sgt. Ward explained he has been with the Columbus Police Department for 19 years and has had Sergeant's rank since 2015. Sgt. Ward stated he was assigned to zone 4, [REDACTED], which operates from [REDACTED]. He said his days off are [REDACTED]. Sgt. Ward explained he worked on the night of December 22, 2020 and assigned to vehicle S94. He stated his responsibilities the night of the OICI was to cover the crews for Precincts 3 and 4.

Sgt. Ward was asked how he became involved with the OICI, which involved Officer Coy. Sgt. Ward explained he heard over the police radio "shots fired" from Officer Amy Detweiler. Sgt. Ward said he responded to the scene from the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Substation. Sgt. Ward explained when he arrived on the scene, he checked on-scene security, called for aid, and preserved

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evidence. Sgt. Ward stated he noticed Columbus Police Sergeant Albers was also on location. Sgt. Ward said the two worked together to assign employment details for the perimeter's inner and outer crime scene.

Sgt. Ward was asked if he was involved in clearing the residence at 1062 Oberlin; he said no. Sgt. Ward said after the scene was rendered safe, the ambulance approached the home. Sgt. Ward explained he could not remember if any officers made a statement to him, but he stated he could tell what was going on. Sgt. Ward was asked if he went up to where Mr. Hill was located. He said yes; he was a couple of feet away and saw police officers administering first aid. Sgt. Ward said he could not identify what officers were on scene due to everyone wearing a mask.

Sgt. Ward was then shown his body-worn camera footage. As we viewed the video, Sgt. Ward then identified some individuals at the scene when asked. Sgt. Ward was asked if he spoke with any non-law enforcement witnesses at the scene. He answered no. Sgt. Ward was asked if he took custody of any physical evidence. He said no. Sgt. Ward was asked if he spoke with the residents of the property. Sgt. Ward replied no.

Sgt. Ward said at some point, he left the scene and turned responsibilities over to Sgt. Albers. Sgt. Ward said he traveled to the substation where he noticed Officer Support Personnel with Officers Detweiler and Coy. Sgt. Ward said that Officer Detweiler inadvertently drove her police cruiser out of the location and to the substation when Officer Support was to return the officers to the scene for the walk-through. Sgt. Ward said he had Officer Detweiler drive the same police cruiser back to the location and explain to investigators what had happened. Sgt. Ward was asked if he could offer investigators any further information about the OICI; he advised no.

The witness interview concluded at 2129 hours. The interview between Agents Ward, Roeser, and Sgt. Ward was audio-recorded and can be reviewed for additional details. See the attachment for a copy of the audio recording.

#### **Attachments:**

Attachment # 01:2021-01-06-16-55-26-Off. Aaron Ward